

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2004

The regular community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, March 11, 2004, at 3:00 p.m., at the Conley Detroit Public Library, 4600 Martin, Detroit, MI 48210.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton
Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Megan Norris

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella Bully-Cummings
AC Walter Shoulders
AC Harold Cureton
DC Gary Christian
Cmdr. Donald Parshall
Cmdr. Ralph Godbee
Insp. Dwayne McKissic
Insp. Walter Martin
Sgt. Debbie Jackson
PO Ivette Reed
PO Reggie Crawford

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Ainsley Cromwell, Supervising Investigator
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

OTHERS PRESENT

Kathy Milberg
Sandra Hines
Reggie Crawford
Therea Sajack

Aaron Erwin
Felipe Martinez
Lisa Knott
Ed Bobencheck
Valerie Glenn-Simons
Joan Gillespie
James Childs
Rev. David Murray
Lisa Grace
Alex Romero
Steve Pardo
Steve Tobocman
Mary Burella
Ilona Varga
Tonya Thomas-Jefferson
Bill Welbourn
Bernice Smith
Ron Scott

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hampton called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:43 p.m.

Comm. Ramirez read the duties and the responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

♦ Thursday, March 4, 2004

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to approve the above Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Chairperson Hampton read the following:

RESOLUTION HONORING POLICE OFFICER CARWELL WILLIAMS, JR.

WHEREAS Police Officer Carwell Williams, Jr., of the Eleventh Precinct, retired on January 6, 2004, from the Detroit Police Department after twenty-six (26) years of dedicated service to the citizens of Detroit, and

WHEREAS Police Officer Williams was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on July 5, 1977, and

WHEREAS Upon graduation from the Detroit Police Academy, Officer Williams was assigned to Patrol at the Eleventh Precinct, and

WHEREAS In August 1986 until November 1998, Officer Williams was assigned to the Special Operations Unit as a School Officer/Ranger, and

WHEREAS In November 1998, Officer Williams was assigned to the Special Operations Unit of the Eleventh Precinct to Davison Beat 22 until his retirement, and

WHEREAS During his career, Officer Williams has received the GOP Commemorative Award, four (4) Citations, two (2) Chief's Unit Awards, two (2) Chief's Merit Awards, one (1) Chamber of Commerce Award, one (1) Perfect Attendance Award, and numerous letters of commendation from supervisors and citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department acknowledge Police Officer Carwell Williams, Jr., for his loyal and dedicated service to the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of Detroit. Police Officer

Williams actions were in accordance with the highest standards and traditions of the Detroit Police Department.

We salute and congratulate you, Police Officer Carwell Williams, Jr.

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Willie Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Jim Holley
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to adopted the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION HONORING MR. CHARLIE THOMAS

WHEREAS Mr. Charlie Thomas is a life-long resident and community leader in the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas is the President of the Bassett Street Block Club. He currently serves as a board member of the Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision and the Southwest Detroit Improvement Association; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas is a member of the American Legion and the Advisory Council for the Kemeny Recreation Center in Southwest Detroit; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas serves as the eyes and ears for the police by contributing his time patrolling the neighborhoods. He has been instrumental in recruiting others to volunteer; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thomas, in addition to the aforementioned activities, still finds time to participate in the "Adopt-A-Room Program" at the Fourth Precinct, National Night Out, Angel's Night, and COMPSTAT (Computerized Statistics) meetings; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Thomas. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the City of Detroit merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. Charlie Thomas.

/s/ Willie Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Jim Holley
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

MOTION: **Comm. Norris** made the motion to adopted the Resolution.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Chief Bully-Cummings presented Mr. Thomas with a Certificate of Recognition.

AC Shoulders presented Mr. Thomas with the Spirit of Detroit Award.

Mr. Thomas thanked everyone one.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Weekly Count of Complaints:	39	284

Pending Cases

As of March 10, 2004, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **905 pending cases**, which include **204 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **28 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **94 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **105 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **167 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, and **217 cases** with an age of 7-9 months, and **68 cases** with an age of 10-12 months, **22 cases** with an age of 13-15 months.

2003

During the past week:	42	Year to Date:	230
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5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Mission Statement

BUILDING A SAFER DETROIT THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and business. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

OPERATION CRUSADERS:

The Narcotics Conspiracy and Enforcement Sections – conducted a narcotic blitz operation within the boundaries of the Ninth Precinct. There were 37 enforcement actions taken, which resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

- ◆ 14 Felony arrests

- ◆ 59 Misdemeanor arrests
- ◆ 1 Juvenile detained
- ◆ 23.2 Grams of cocaine, 13.4 grams of heroin, 882.6 grams of marijuana and 5 pills – street value \$36,980
- ◆ \$8,003 U.S. currency
- ◆ 14 Handguns
- ◆ 1 Vehicle
- ◆ 54 Miscellaneous ordinances issued

The Vice Section conducted one enforcement action in the 10200 block of the Gratiot. The enforcement action resulted in the following arrests and confiscations:

- ◆ 6 Arrests for “Engage in Illegal Occupation”
- ◆ 56 Arrests for “Loitering in a Place of Illegal Occupation”
- ◆ 3 Grams of cocaine and 47.9 grams of marijuana—street value \$1,392
- ◆ 26 Vehicles confiscated
- ◆ 3 Handguns

NINTH/FIFTH PRECINCT:

In response to an increase in the amount of UDAA’s (Unlawful Driving Away of an Automobile) in the residential and business areas of the Ninth and Fifth Precincts, a Joint Operation Investigative Effort (JOIE) was initiated on Monday, February 16, 2004. JOIE is a collaborative effort between officers assigned to the Ninth and Fifth Precincts, the Eastpointe, Grosse Point Farms, Harper Woods Police Departments; and the Macomb County Sheriff Department. The following are the results of the operation, between February 16th and 27th.

- ◆ 49 Felony arrests:
 - 27 UDAA
 - 12 PSMV (Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle)
 - 4 VCSA (Violation of the Controlled Substance Act)
 - 3 CCW/MV (Carrying a Concealed Weapon—Motor Vehicle)
 - 3 R&C/\$1000 (Receiving and Concealing Over \$1,000)
- ◆ 3 Misdemeanor arrests:
 - 3 Possession of Burglary Tools
- ◆ 41 Vehicles recovered
- ◆ 7 Juveniles detained

VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCE:

On March 1, 2004, officers of the Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) were requested to assist in locating a second person wanted for a triple fatal shooting that occurred in the 9700 block of Woodlawn. Through information gathered from the community, the VCTF conducted surveillance at locations the subject was known to frequent. Having no place to hide, the subject subsequently turned himself in to the Homicide Section on March 3, 2004.

Additional information was obtained on the location of a third suspect wanted in the murder. With the assistance of the United States Marshals, the VCTF arrested the third suspect on March 8, 2004.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

THIRD PRECINCT:

The Third Precinct held its weekly program for seniors called "*Young At Heart.*" Each week, the Third Precinct Business United With Officers and Youth (BUOY) sponsors the program for seniors at the BUOY center located at 3401 West Vernor, between the hours of 10:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. The seniors play bingo, checkers, other card games, and potluck. A Yoga Class is held for the same group each Monday from 6:30 P.M. through 8:00 P.M.

6. PRESENTATION – FOURTH PRECINCT

Cmdr. Parshall welcomed the Board of Police Commissioners and Chief Bully-Cummings to the Fourth Precinct. He thanked the Conley Public Library Branch Manager, Rita Van Rand-D-Gan, for allowing the Fourth Precinct to hold our meeting here. He also thanked **Felipe** Martinez and Vice President Charlie Thomas, who provided refreshments for this event.

He gave the following presentation:

As a life long east-sider, I discovered after being assigned **to the** Fourth Precinct that Southwest Detroit is a unique, rapidly growing, thriving community of residential neighborhoods, small businesses, and large industries, that is help to lead the City of Detroit's revitalization's efforts.

Leading this revitalization are a large number of neighborhood groups and business associations, and I see quite a few of their representatives in the crowd tonight. These groups are very active, what is needed to make the Fourth Precinct a better place to live and work. But they also proven to be

very fair, compassionate and understanding when it comes to the problems the officers have to face. This was particularly true from the showoff support our precinct received from the community after the tragic loss of two of our officers.

All of the officers of the Fourth Precinct, in particular, our Community Relations Officers, who under the direction of Sgt. Angela Day, work with these groups to achieve our common goals. Goals which often go beyond fighting crime, and include helping to support and make the following events possible: The Ce de Mayo celebration in May, Easter Egg hunt in April, St. Patrick's Day Parade, the SW Detroit 4th of July Parade.

Our primary responsibility is still fighting crime and enforcing traffic and environmental laws to make this community better place to live. The Chief has made it clear that her Department is committed to reducing crime, and the officers of the Fourth Precinct are committed to support that goal.

We are constantly monitoring crime patterns and attempting to deploy our resources where they can be the most effective. Since I've been here, we have implemented some crime and safety initiatives like the "North End Blitz, Angle's Night Abandoned Car Blitz, several Neighborhood Speeding Operations, Operation Environmental Makeover. These initiatives have achieved some moderate successes.

Under the direction of Lt. John Morell, we have restructured our investigative operations section, and the Fourth Platoon to try to be more effective. Those efforts have resulted in increasing the closure rate of all reported crimes from 10.6% to 18.4%, for the first two months of this year as compared to the same period last year. It has also resulted in four separate clean up sheets for the arrests and prosecution of four separate confirmed part 1 crimes that included RA, RNA, B&E Business, and Home invasions. We have also increased the number of traffic & environmental tickets written by the precinct for the first two months of this year, from 950 last year to 1150 for this year, or an increase of 17.4%.

The one area I'm disappointed in, was that the overall total of reported crime as of March 7, 2004, has had an almost imperceptible increase in overall crime of less than 1% as compared to the same time period last year. Since no increase in crime is acceptable, all I can say is we will continue to try new initiatives to reduce those totals.

Finally I would like to end on a happy note. For those of you who don't know, the Fourth Precinct is housed at the oldest active precinct building in the city. It was originally built in 1929, the building was considered state of the art for police buildings, but today it is badly outdated. A new public safety facility at W. Fort near Clark, is scheduled for completion by March of 2005. This

building will contain a police station, a fire station and a municipal parking violations bureau officer, where citizens can come in and pay their tickets. I've seen the blueprints, and I think it is a building that the community will be proud of.

Comm. Norris stated it has been a tough time for the Fourth Precinct as we all know. The precinct officer's and the department have handled itself in a perfect manner and we have been really proud of the department.

7. TOWNHALL DISCUSSION – GENERAL PUBLIC

Chairperson Hampton stated we will be having a town hall meeting and we would like comments from the community, Fire, Police, City Council, Mayors Office and the Board of Police Commissioners. With this town hall meeting we want to tweak our strengths and our weaknesses, opportunities and our threats. We would like for anyone who is interested to give their name and comments/questions/suggestions/topics for a future town hall discussion.

Kathy Milberg asked how do citizens help support the Police Department? Why don't we have enough officers available? She also voiced concerns in regards to officers working 12-hour shifts.

Sandra Hines voiced her concern in regards to the Fourth Precinct, the Department and the citizen's feelings regarding the two officers that were killed. She read information that she researched on capital punishment. She also stated situations or crimes that involve racism that have never been mended needs to be looked into.

PO Reggie Crawford voiced his concerns about allegations regarding Charles Barbeiri accepting \$10,000 from a liquor license establishment. He also wanted to know the status of the investigation regarding Lt. Kenneth Williams.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated this is a town hall discussion. That investigation is being reviewed by a Commissioner right now.

Comm. Norris stated they have done their investigation and the forwarded to me and it is my job to review it and send it back.

Theresa Sajak voiced concerns regarding businesses in the Fourth Precinct area needs officers to invest in the community, so that we could open more businesses.

Irin Erwin stated police officers bring integrity, honesty and community building to the Fourth Precinct.

Felipe Martinez stated officers should receive a raise, officers need more technical support and equipment and we need more bilingual Hispanic officers. How can citizens help?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated you can help by referring people to apply to Recruitment.

Lisa Knott voiced her concern about gas stations harboring drug activities. She asked how do officers communicate with a community that has various languages?

AC Shoulders stated there are a number of different dialects in the country, so in order to deal with various dialects, Communications Unit calls a number at AT&T, which helps us, translates any language.

Comm. Ramirez asked do officers and commanders in the precinct know that that is available?

AC Shoulders stated any **officer** knows that when they have a problem with language barriers, they have to contact the control center in Communications.

Ed Bobencheck stated he is the Regional President of the Great Lakes Capital Fund and we invest in housing in the city of Detroit. We have invested over a quarter of a million dollars over the last ten years in Detroit. We are trying to put **homes** in place of abandoned areas. We need help from the police department to help prevent abandoned cars, graffiti, car thefts and prostitution on Michigan Avenue. We are willing to help and assist the police department with these endeavors.

Chairperson Hampton asked have you talked to the commander?

Mr. Bobencheck stated yes.

Valerie Glenn-Simons encouraged everyone not to encourage the capital punishment law in the state of Michigan, there should be alternatives to deal with the punishment of people who commit these crimes. She also stated we need to erase the line that racially divides the community.

Joan Gillespie voiced concerns regarding response times of officers and there needs to be a readjustment of the number of officers from various precincts and place them in a precinct on Michigan Avenue.

James Childs requested that a mini station be placed across the bridge.

Comm. Holley asked what is happening on the other side of the bridge?

Mr. Childs stated we need a mini station for traffic enforcement or in case of various situations.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated we are making sure that we have sufficient coverage for the 10,500 citizens that live on the other side of the bridge.

Rev. David Murray suggested that there should be a day called "No Violence Friday".

Jose (Last name unknown) gave thanks for the last community meeting, where he voiced his concern and asked for assistance in regards to an incident that occurred on February 16, 2004, he was assaulted and stabbed several times and he thought his case was closed. He stated he is happy because he was assigned a new investigator (Jose Herrera) from the Office of the Chief Investigator, because he is working very good on the case.

Reggie Crawford stated we need to fight the power.

Lisa Grace stated she is at the Michigan Avenue Business Association and our building is located at 4835 Michigan Avenue. As I am doing my work I can look across on the street and see people selling drugs and prostitution. She asked is there anything we could do to help the courts enforce a \$500.00 fine for prostitution, instead of the \$50 fine, which she pays and is right back on the streets again.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated we had a conversation last week regarding the bond being \$50.00. So, when they are arrested and taking into a precinct they could bond out for \$50.00. The other side of that coin is that when they go to court, whether they get slapped with anything greater than zero or that the \$50.00 fine that they put up is sufficient. In the suburban communities that have \$300.00 and \$500.00 fines that are clearly enforced, so they would not cross they line. The police department is aware of this issue and we are working very hard on correcting it. We are going to push it as far as we can, and hope that **the** community will support our endeavors.

Alex Romero stated the communities need to work together and help officers make these streets safe. In junction with the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Counsel and the Hispanic Police Officers of Michigan we are doing graffiti cleanup on March 31, 2004 at 12:00 p.m. starting from the BUOY 3 Center located on West Vernor as far up to Woodmere. If there is anyone who would like to join us, you can contact our office. He asked are their any future thoughts of having any Hispanic speaking deputy chiefs?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated we try to place officers in the Third and Fourth Precincts because we recognize that the need is there.

Steve Pardo stated I am a former police officer. He asked will the police department add Spanish speaking or culturally aware officers into the Third and Fourth Precinct area. He also voiced a concern of various Hispanic street gangs. He asked is anything being done to beef up Gang Squad and more Hispanic speaking officers to Gang Squad?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated my first priority is to increase the number of uniform officers in the precinct, not to beef up other areas of the police department. I am a firm believer that if you address it on the front end, you don't need a lot of things on the back end. AC Harold Cureton is here and the Gang Squad Section falls under him. As it stands right now, we are in a recruiting mode and we are trying to hire officers, but I have to put more uniformed police officers in the precinct, so that they are visible.

Steve Tobocman stated he is the state representative for the Third and Fourth Precinct that is located in the 12th District. We would like to help the Detroit Police Department with recruiting candidates. He asked if the police department could think of proactive ways so that we can ensure that we have the proper amount of police officers in the Southwest Detroit community?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated we have not transferred additional officers into the Fourth Precinct, but we have units assigned because these 17 officers are still carried on the books at the Fourth Precinct right now. We do have units that we assign every single day to augment the services that are provided by the officers of the Fourth Precinct. I have given Deputy Chief Christian, the job of adjudicating these cases, because the Disciplinary Administration Section falls under him. If the officers are not responsible or guilty we need to bring them back to work, so we are working very hard to do that.

Mary Barela stated I am the President Southwest Detroit Improvement Association; we are here to help and support the Detroit Police Department in anyway that we can. The association has been in existence for 52 years and we have over 200 members.

Ilona Varga stated she is a Wayne County Commissioners and I represent the Southwest Detroit, West side Detroit and Lincoln Park. I want to set the record straight for those who may have misunderstand. The father that I personally know of the police officer, his motive is not racial. It would not have mattered no matter who did the killing; he would have the same attitude. I have a commander who is working with us on the prostitution issue and I have an ordinance that I am working on for Wayne County. We need to find jobs and mental health care for those people.

Kathy Milberg voiced her concerns in regards to citizens not being able to afford insurance on their cars and public transportation. She also voiced her concerns regarding prostitution on Michigan Avenue.

Tonya Thomas-Jefferson she voiced a concern regarding an increase in shootings in her neighborhood.

Chairperson Hampton asked Ms. Thomas Jefferson to give her name and address to the commander after the meeting.

Unknown female voiced her concerns in regards to drug activity, shots fired, vandalism and traffic problems.

Bill Welbourne wants to institute a program that will mentor youths.

Bernice Smith stated that the Detroit Police Department is doing a wonderful job with the limited budget that Mayor makes available to them.

Vice Chairperson Blackwell stated the Mayor proposes the budget and City Council controls the budget.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated if you look across the country, most cities are facing budget deficits. Our Mayor has made a commitment to not layoff any police officers or fire fighters just to balance the budget.

Ron Scott voiced concerns regarding we should be raising questions about some of the corporate entities in this City. In regards to officers working 12 and 16 hour shifts, we have to make sure that people are doing the job with what they are being paid to do it at the time they do it. We have to deal with our entire city and the safety that we have in our entire city. Next time we have a town hall meeting, we should let the children speak to the Chief and the Board of Police Commissioners.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2004, @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters, Rm. 328-A
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, MI 48226

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/kdw